

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 and 24-40 are pending in the application. Amendments have been made to claims 1, 16, 24, 26, 28, and 37. These amendments have been made to incorporate allowable claims according to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate elements of allowable claim 3. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate elements of allowable claim 21. Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate elements of allowable claim 25. Claim 28 has been amended to incorporate elements of allowable claim 36. Accordingly, duplicative claims 3, 21, 25, and 36 have been cancelled. Claim 26 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 37 has been amended to correct the dependency in light of cancelled claim 36. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this amendment and no estoppels are intended thereby.

Allowance for this matter is earnestly solicited. In addition, it is respectfully requested that this amendment and response be considered.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 11, 16-18, 27, 28, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by reference 1808071 to Johannes Menschner (Hereinafter, the "Menschner document"). Firstly, the Examiner is thanked for Their indication that claims 3-10, 12-15, 19-21, 25, and 29-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants respectfully submit that it is believed that the amendments submitted herein to claims 1, 16, 24, and 28 comply with the Examiner's suggestions and resolve the foregoing rejection. Each dependent

claim depends from claims believed to be allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection to claims 1-2, 11, 16-18, 27, 28, and 36 is respectfully requested in light of the amendments submitted herein.

Claims 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by reference US Patent Number 5,664,712 to Thomas J. Smrt (Hereinafter, the "Smrt document"). The Applicants respectfully submit that it is believed that the amendments submitted herein to claim 24 complies with the Examiner's suggestions and resolve the foregoing rejection. Claim 26 depends from claim 24 which is believed to be allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection to claims 24 and 26 is respectfully requested in light of the amendments submitted herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-10, 12-15, 19-21, 25, and 29-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, each independent claim 1, 16, 24, and 28 has been amended to include elements of allowed claims.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that any further issue exists, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this response is not timely received or an extension is required, the Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any additional fees may be charged to or overpayment credited to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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